

METRO

The Portland Observer

Triple Dose of Pointer Sisters

Three shows are scheduled with the Oregon Symphony

See Focus Inside



SECTION B

Community Calendar

Domestic Violence Summit

Come hear S. Renee Mitchell and others speak out against violence from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 at Pioneer Courthouse Square. For more information visit www.raphaelhouse.com or call 503-490-8775.

Mid-East Conflict Talk

A town meeting on Middle East conflicts will be held Sunday, Oct. 8 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the NW Neighborhood Cultural Center, 319 N.W. 18th St., bringing together diverse cultures and religions to express viewpoints about issues that have divided our local and global communities. All views and backgrounds are welcome.

Gourmet Popcorn Sale

Scouts from the Cascade Pacific Council, Boy Scouts of America will be popping up all over northwest Oregon and southwest Washington during October as they kick off their annual Trail's End Gourmet Popcorn sales. Proceeds provide the council and Scouts units with additional funds to serve more than 48,000 youths in the area. To place an order for caramel, butter, chocolate, cheese, Kettle flavors and more, call 503-225-5718.

Jefferson Homecoming

The Jefferson Alumni Association kicks off with a Homecoming Tailgate Party, Wednesday, Oct. 20. The group is looking for one car from each class to circle the Jefferson campus. Individuals interested in organizing their classmates can bring a grill, some food and music and have fun. The Alumni Association meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Jefferson High School. For more information or to host a car for your class, contact Phoebe Tyeskey at 503-490-0985 or Maggie Mashia at 503-331-7507.

Personal Transformation

Portland Community College hosts a class to achieve a healthy and more energetic lifestyle. Pathway to Personal Transformation meets from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Nov. 21 in room 105 at the Portland Metro Workforce Training Center, 5600 N.E. 42 Ave. Cost is \$59. For more information, call 503-978-5205.

Stroller Class for Moms

Are you a new mom or have a toddler? Get some exercise and meet other moms at the free Stroller Strides class, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursday at Peninsula Park. All you need is a stroller, water, a mat or towel and comfortable shoes. Call Helen at 503-260-5018 for more information.

Lents Homeowners Help

Members of the Lents Homeownership Initiative and partners will host "How to Repair Your Credit", a free home buying workshop on Tuesday, Nov. 14 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Kelly Elementary, 9030 SE Cooper St. If you'd like to attend please RSVP to Amie Diffenauer at 503-788-8052 or amie@rosecdc.org.

Volunteer for Crisis Line

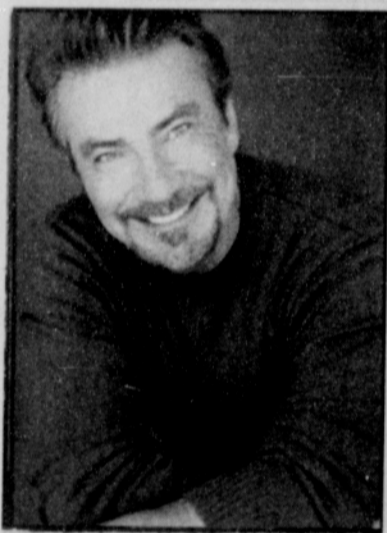
Want to make a difference in your community? Volunteers and advocates are needed for the Portland Women's Crisis Line. The needs include on-call advocates to respond in person or over the phone, outreach and educational efforts, and fundraising and administrative duties. Call 503-232-4176 for more information.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Madison High School Pride

Madison High School 9th graders Jazmyrn Smith (from left), Jorge Borgos, Shannon Kennedy and Josh Slaney spruce up the landscape of their northeast Portland school. They joined teams of other volunteers Thursday from the Home Depot and Hands on Portland to remove debris, weed, landscape, build benches and paint.



Victor Rivas Rivers

Actor to Tell Story of Child Abuse

Self empowerment group sponsors event

It took years of pain and therapy for Victor Rivas Rivers, a Cuban-born veteran star of television, film and stage, to step out of the shadow of abuse and low self-esteem to find the beauty behind the childhood trauma he experienced at the hands of his father.

"I chose to forgive my father," Rivers says, "by not allowing his behavior in my house and by teaching peace."

On Monday, Oct. 9, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Rivers will be talking about his fascinating life story and reading from his memoirs, "A Private Family Matter," in a free public book signing at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus. Everyone is welcome.

The community-based event is sponsored by the Healing Roots Village, a new collaboration of agencies and individuals working to empower black women and their children; Hacienda Community Development Corp., a non-profit committed to improving the livability of low-income Latino families; and PCC Cascade, which offers 14,000 students a year a diverse, culturally rich urban experience.

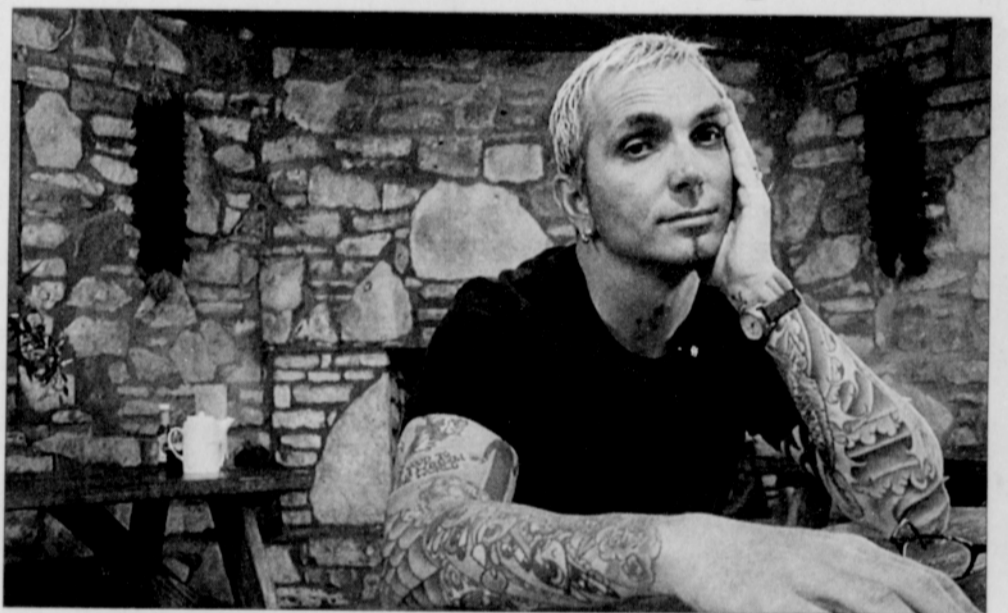
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Tough Times in Life Shared

Local artist, leaders get personal to help teens



Master drummer Obo Addy lends his story to a unique book about life as a teen.



Art Alexakis of the band Everclear is one of 50 members of the Portland community who participated in a book to help teenagers with drug and alcohol problems.

At the age of 15, Obo Addy lived in Ghana. A stubborn teenager with a love for music, he would climb the walls of nightclubs to hear the beats being played. Then he met Joe Kelly Odampman. He became Obo's mentor and Obo became a master drummer.

Addy's story of his life as a teenager is told in "When You Were 15: An Anthology About Why Adults Matter to Teens." It features over 50 stories from members of the Portland community, including City Commissioner Sam Adams, musician Art Alexakis of the band Everclear and school superintendent Vickie Phillips. Each of them writes about an adult who was there for them at a tough time in life.

The book is part of the "When You Were 15" community education campaign created by Multnomah County and Reclaiming Futures. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Reclaiming Futures is one of 10 projects across the country seeking to improve outcomes for youth with drug and alcohol problems who are in trouble with the law. "When You Were 15" seeks to recruit caring adults interested in spending time



with the youth in fun, everyday activities.

In an excerpt from Addy's story, he shares lessons he learned from his mentor:

"[Joe Kelly Odampman] was a mentor to a lot of us young, want-to-be-musicians.

Through him our ears were trained to hear...all music, good music like classical, mambo, and swing... 'You can play any music,' he would say."

Today, Addy has traveled the world playing and teaching music and dance. Addy is also the founder and artistic director of Homowo African Arts and Culture, a Portland-based non-profit organization. The credit is due, at least in part, to his mentor.

Though each story in the anthology is unique, each of the writers share how, when they were teenagers, an adult made a memorable difference in their lives. Now that they're all adults, not much has changed — teens still need adults to help them be successful.

"Currently, there are about 550 youth on probation in this county," says Joanne Fuller, director of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. "Many of these youth don't have adults in their lives who can help them see a positive future. As a community, we can change that. Supporting teens is easy and fun. It just takes a little bit of time out of our week."

Through a partnership with Big Brothers

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36
years of
community service